

Some solace for Sturm Graz

GRAZ, Austria, Oct 28: Sturm Graz pulled off an astonishing 3-2 victory over Marseille in European Champions League Group D but the French side are still assured a place in the next phase of the competition, reports AFP.

Marseille's French World Cup winner Christophe Dugarry twice equalised goals from Roman Mahlich and Tomica Kojican but then Kojican came up with a late - but ultimately futile - winner for the hosts.

Kojican had the first real chance of the match for the Austrians after 16 minutes but his left-foot shot on the turn went just over the angle of post and bar.

But three minutes later Kojican was involved in the opener. He played a delightful pass through to Markus Schopp whose cross found Mahlich and he slipped the ball past Marseille goalkeeper Stephane Porte.

Six minutes before the interval the Austrians nearly made it 2-0 but Ivica Vastic could not keep his shot down as the ball bounced deep in the Marseille area.

Marseille boss Rolland Courbis tried to change things at the interval. Spanish midfielder Ivan Da la Pena, a play-maker, replaced the more defensive-minded South African international Pierre Issa.

But within two minutes the former Barcelona and Lazio star had to leave the fray after clutching his knee in injury in what seemed an innocuous looking tackle.

Dugarry replaced the Spaniard in his first European start since the lengthy ban that followed his suspension for his role in the brawl after last season's UEFA Cup semi-final between Marseille and Bologna.

The forced substitution paid almost immediate dividends after 53 minutes.

In a move strikingly similar to Mahlich's earlier strike, Ravanelli played the ball through to Pires, whose cross was turned in by Dugarry, albeit with the help of a slight deflection.

On the hour Sturm Graz almost retook the lead when Porte did well to parry a shot from Kojican after good work from Vastic.

But seconds later they were ahead. Schopp found Vastic on the right and his first-time cross was headed in by Kojican at the near post.

Dugarry proved the hero again 12 minutes from time when he received Stephane Dalmat's pass with his back to goal but managed to lift the ball over Schickgruber.

Kojican finally turned up trumps with a left-foot shot for the winner for Graz - but Marseille's 2-0 win in the home leg means their record in the games between the two sides is the better even though the Austrians can still catch them on points.



An airborne Patrick Kluivert heads in Barcelona's second goal against AIK Solna during their champions' league match at Barcelona. — AFP photo

Barca clobber Solna



BARCELONA, Oct 28: Barcelona threw down the gauntlet to their European Champions League rivals Wednesday, swamping Sweden's AIK Solna 5-0 with a majestic showing at the Nou Camp to secure qualification for the second phase.

Patrick Kluivert set the ball

Premiership

Camara shines for Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, England, Oct 28: Guineo Titi Camara proved a more than able deputy for Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler as his fourth goal of the season gave Liverpool a 1-0 Premiership victory over West Ham United on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Van Gaal now wants to emulate Johan Cruyff and land the European Cup for the Catalan club for only the second time after 1992 - a goal whose importance for the club would far outweigh even a third domestic title.

The reigning Spanish champions left out six first-teamers Wednesday in advance of a tax league match at Deportivo La Coruna.

Among those rested were Luis Figo, Rivaldo and Luis Enrique and Phillip Cocu, opening the door to fringe players such as Frenchman Frederic Dehu, former Ajax striker Jari Litmanen and Ronald de Boer, whose brother Frank is still out

rolling with the first goal after nine minutes and struck again in the 33rd to seal Barca's passage with something to spare. Boudewijn Zenden, another of the 'orange' contingent giving Barca more than a hint of Dutch flavour, scored the third.

The Swedes, who have taken just one point in a disappointing Group B campaign, were completely outclassed and folded in the face of the home side's onslaught once Kluivert had snatched the opener.

The torment in the second half as first Gabi scored the fourth on 53 minutes and Frenchman Fred Dehu added the fifth three minutes later.

Barcelona knocked out of the tournament in the first phase in each of the past two seasons, had already secured their passage by dint of last week's win over Arsenal at Wembley to the relief of coach Louis van Gaal.

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The French midfielder appeared before an FA disciplinary hearing in Watford to answer two counts of misconduct.

He was handed a four-match ban plus a 30,000 pound fine for spitting at West Ham's Neil Ruddock following his red card.

In addition, he received a two-match ban plus a further 15,000 pounds fine for confronting a police officer in the tunnel.

Barcelona goalkeeper keeper Francesc Arnau, one of the few Catalans to oust a Dutchman since Van Gaal began his reign two years ago, won the nod to start in place of the out of favour Ruud Hesp after impressing in last week's win at Wembley.

The mashed Swedes were left to contemplate a possible third place finish which would bring a UEFA Cup third-round berth as they came off even worse than on their last visit to the Nou Camp temple, a 3-1 defeat in a Cup Winners' Cup tie three years ago.

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Shield cricket

SYDNEY, Oct 28 (AFP): South Australia took a grip on their Sheffield Shield cricket match against New South Wales here Thursday, taking first innings points with two days to play.

NSW were dismissed for 268 to South Australia's 339, and trailed by 101 runs at the close on day two.

The South Australians were 30 without loss in their second innings and well placed to push for an outright on Saturday.

Rookie Brad Haddin emerged as a player to watch after a classy 86 for New South Wales. The 22-year-old hit 11 fours and two sixes in a display of clean hitting.

But he threw away a century in just his second Shield game with a wild swipe at leg-spinner Peter McIntyre, who grabbed three wickets in five balls to end the resistance.

Opener Michael Slater compiled a solid 59 ahead of next week's first Test against Pakistan in Brisbane, while captain Michael Bevan's only moment of trouble was the Mark Harry Yorker right on tea that bowled him for 77.

Fast bowler Paul Wilson knocked over the first four batsmen by putting the ball in the right spot on the newly laid SCG pitch to finish with 4-38 off 23 overs.

Earlier SA spinner Brad Young struck his maiden first-class century in the morning session. The hard-hitting No.7 remained unbeaten on 114 off 148 balls.

Malaysia to host Asia Cup hockey

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 28: Malaysia will take over as host of the Asia Cup hockey tournament next month following this month's coup in Pakistan, organisers said, reports AFP.

The championship was due to be held in Lahore but India and Malaysia had expressed reservations at playing there because of the political uncertainty.

With Steffi Graf watching from the players' box alongside Agassi's coach Brad Gilbert, the top seed, playing for the first time in a fortnight, clearly showed his world number one Andre Agassi, reports AFP.

"I could never have imagined in my wildest dreams that it would lead to such hysteria," Graf told Stern magazine.

"Andrzej and I have nothing to hide -- there are plenty of photos of us and yet we just don't get a break," she complained, adding she was tired of having to evade the paparazzi.

On Tuesday the pair appeared for the first time together in public in Germany when they had a brief practice session on Centre Court at the ATP event in Stuttgart which led to a stampede by hundreds of fans to see them.

Boycott: Married to cricket

From Our Correspondent

ing today:

I wouldn't adhere to such a view. My only complaint is that the present day cricketers have very little time to think about their game. To be successful you have got to think. How can I say batsmanship has deteriorated when I see the likes of Sachin Tendulkar, the Prince of Cal-

far as cricket was concerned. I never compromised with the game. People may have been critical of the way I played. However, ask any bowler and they would say that I was a bloody good batsman. I was the number one always on the opposition bowlers' hit list.

Would he dare to tackle this generation's firebrands -- Shaobai Akhtar, Javagal Srinath, Glen McGrath or Alan Donald?

Let me tell you that I have batted for more than seven hours against an attack that consisted of Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Joel Garner and Colin Croft. Before that, I have also tackled the likes of Wes Hall, Charlie Griffith and Sir Gary Sobers. And let me assure you that Sir Gary could be really quick when he wanted to. In our days pitches were not covered. So it needed a lot of courage to go out and face the first ball of the first morning. The bowlers that you have mentioned are good in their own rights. If I had played in this generation I would have won some battles they would have emerged victors in others.

On Sunil Gavaskar:

He was a great batsman simply because he developed from India which had no fast bowlers. If Sunny and myself were the openers of any particular team the bowlers would lose their night's sleep regularly. He was very good.

The went flying. His turn had come to resume commentary. Geoffrey promised to talk a lot more soon. But then he rarely has a free moment. After his session with the mike he would get down to writing columns. He is contented simply because he spends time with cricket. He has nothing else really to live for.

GEOFF BOYCOTT

cutta (Saurav Ganguly) or Mark Waugh or for that matter Steve Waugh. They would have been successful under any circumstances. I would rather say that the number of quality bowlers have gone down. You can count them on your fingers. Like Wasim Akram, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shane Warne and Glen McGrath. I would also like to include Walsh and Ambrose in this list. It's a sad thing that they are on the way out.

On his success as a cricketer:

I was a very selfish man as

fan following that he has:

I love doing the job. The fans have come because I call a spade a spade. I have nothing to get from those that are playing today. As a result, I am openly critical. I do not hide my views. If I say something wrong, I will be the first to apologise. However, I do not mind words when I am criticising or praising. There is no midway for me. It has to either black and white.

On whether he thinks batsmanship as whole is deteriorat-

Third seed Todd Martin, losing finalist against Agassi at the US Open, easily handled Fabrice Santoro of France 6-4, 6-2. Czech Daniel Vacek put Tim Henman in Hanover danger as he beat the tenth seed 6-3, 6-1.

The Briton stands ninth in the chase to the eight-man final, but will not have helped his cause with the early defeat.

Chile's sixth seed Marcelo Rios, winner of his last event in Singapore, beat France's Sebastien Grosjean 6-3, 6-4 while Spaniard Alex Corretja, the number nine, put out American battler Jim Courier 6-3, 6-7, 6-3.

Germany's Tommy Haas, seeded 11th, thrilled the home crowd with a defeat of South African Wayne Ferreira 6-2, 7-6. Ecuadorian 12th seed Nicolas Lapentti continued his momentum from the weekend's title in Lyon in a win over Slovakian Dominik Hrbatý 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Swede Magnus Norman, the 16th seed whose five 1999 titles lead the trophy chase this season, overcame Russian Marat Safin 6-4, 7-5 to reach a third-round meeting with Zabala.

At the end of a long season when many players are feeling the strain, Agassi is fresher than ever, thanks in no small part to a pair of Grand Slam titles and a turnaround in his career over the past 18 months.

Andre sails, Yevgeny fails

STUTTGART, Oct 28: Andre Agassi easily vaulted his first hurdle Wednesday night at the 2.45-million-eurocard Open, encountering little resistance from Mark Philippoussis in a 6-2, 6-4 second-round victory, reports AFP.

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Agassi is one of two men already qualified for next month's ATP Tour World Championship in Hanover, along with Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

But the second-seeded Russian could have been suffering the effects of 12 weeks of total tennis as he took a 6-3, 6-3 drubbing at the hands of Mariano Zabala of Argentina.

Kafelnikov has played uninterrupted since late July and has two more weeks on the trot before finally pausing a week prior to Hanover.

Top Cat 11:30 Captain Planet 12:00 Scooby Doo

12:30 The Cartoon Grand

Pix 1:30 Fantastic Max

2:00 Crocado 2:30 The

New Scooby Doo Moyles

3:30 Sky Commanders

4:00 Centurions 4:30

Swats Kats 5:00 Ninja

Robots 5:30 Flintstones

6:00 Top & Jerry Kids 6:30

Crocado 7:00 The Mask

7:30 Desters Laboratory

7:45 What's A Cartoon?

8:00 The Addams Family 8:30 Scooby Doo

9:00 Hindi Feature Film: Anuradha

CARTOON NETWORK

7:30 The Popeye Show

8:00 Scooby & Scrappy D

8:30 Perils Of Penelope

9:00 Josie & Pussycat

9:30 Drink The Little

10:00 Flintstone Kids

10:30 Riche Rich 11:00

Top Cat 11:30 Captain

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